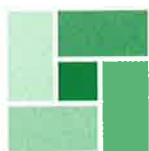


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February 25, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, it is my pleasure to write this letter of support on behalf of Fayette County Public Schools' application to be identified as a District of Innovation.

FCPS' planned innovation zone will serve as a test bed for creative problem-solving that will finally lead to the reinvention of schools as we know it. Unhindered by bureaucratic processes and blocks, the schools will implement a Design Thinking process, focusing tightly on student and parent voices, to identify and generate creative solutions to common school issues that stand in the way of achievement.

FCPS continues to work broadly with a variety of community partners, and participating Innovation Schools will seek to do that in new and creative ways. Partnerships will provide a two-way benefit, with students learning college/career readiness skills as they work in the community to solve real, pressing issues. This "pay it forward" focus will help students situate learning in the world around them, providing relevance for their studies as they work collaboratively to explore problems/solutions that require deep understanding of curriculum standards.

The Prichard Committee applauds efforts of this type, and is proud to support Fayette County Public Schools' District of Innovation initiative.

Sincerely,


 Stu Silberman
 Executive Director